

(South Brunswick, NJ) – On Thursday, May 19, U.S. Rep. Rush Holt visited South Brunswick technology start-up Liquid Light, a small business spun off from Princeton University, to announce a federal grant and meet with the entrepreneurs behind several small high-tech firms.

“Liquid Light is a small company that illustrates a big point: even in this economy, small businesses can drive innovation and create jobs,” said Holt, who represents central New Jersey in Congress. “I believe federal policy can play an important role in that process. It can lay the groundwork for job creation.”

Holt announced that Liquid Light has just received \$149,691 in federal support for its technology that converts carbon dioxide – an atmospheric pollutant and greenhouse gas – into butanol, a clean, alternative fuel. “What’s more,” Holt said, “their process is powered by sunlight: an unlimited source of energy that we’ll never have to import from the Middle East.”

According to Andrew Bocarsly, a Princeton University professor and cofounder of Liquid Light, research into alternative fuels is long overdue. “I was in graduate school during the oil crisis of the 1970s, and we were starting to get serious about alternative energy research,” he said. “But once oil became available again it dropped off. We should have had an army of Ph.D’s working on this since the ‘70s. But hopefully we’re starting up a new crop now.”

After announcing the grant and touring the company’s laboratory, Holt met with representatives of Access Optical Networks, Inc., Nanonex, and Signum Biosciences – all small businesses spun off from federally supported Princeton University research. The companies share space and resources in a South Brunswick office park.

Max Stock, the president of Signum Biosciences, credited the common space with helping to drive innovation and job creation. “[We need] more places like this,” he said, “more incubators and places where you can get 200 square feet for a reasonable price or co-locate with another lab. It’s like affordable housing for small tech companies.”

Representatives of the high-tech companies also highlighted the need for continued federal support science research in order to create new jobs in the years to come. But research

investment is under threat in the current Congress, Holt said, due in part to a Republican plan to slash support by 17 percent.

“The debate should be, “Where should we invest?,”” Holt said. “Right now, our economy is deep in the hole. The only way we can climb out is by supporting entrepreneurs and innovators like these.”

To read more, please [click here](#) for an article from the South Brunswick Patch.